

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application. However, in view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 22, 23 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The foregoing amendments overcome the issues raised under the §112 rejection. With regard to claim 27, note the amendment to claim 1.

In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that additional issues remain under 35 U.S.C. §112, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Art Rejections:

Claims 1-12, 14-15, 22-23 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0056546, hereinafter Claus, in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0110811, hereinafter Nunome.

The present application claims the priority of UK 0201492.6, which was filed on January 23, 2002. Since Nunome was not filed until November 26, 2002, Nunome is not prior art with respect to the present application.

Claims 13, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nunome. However, as set forth above, Nunome is not prior art with respect to the present application.

With regard to the amendments to claim 1, when the claim language was changed from "purity" to OH^- content, the comparator "lower" should have been changed to "higher" since purity is inversely proportional to OH^- content. The foregoing amendments to claims 1, 12, and 13 merely correct this error to the independent claims. Those amendments are not intended to further change the scope of the claims.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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